



## MLHAR Euthanasia Policy

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## MLHAR Euthanasia Policy

My Lovely Horse Rescue focuses on the Rescue, Rehabilitation, Retraining and Rehoming of the equines that come into our care.

In rare cases, we are confronted with a decision to euthanise an animal either in our care, or one we have been called to attend upon. This is an extremely difficult decision for the volunteers and the organisation as a whole – but our policy is always that the animal comes first. We never employ euthanasia as a form of population control. If an animal has a good chance at life and wellness, we give them that chance.

There are however, circumstances under which we will consider the use of veterinary intervention to end an animal's life:

- Incurable or progressive disease that is causing the animal ongoing severe pain
- Chronic or severe lameness that is causing the animal severe pain
- Inoperable colic
- Foals or young animals born with serious defects
- Severe debilitation in old age to the extent that the equine or animal is in severe pain
- Severe traumatic injury
- Undue suffering for any reason

In all cases – whether dealing with an emergency situation, chronic pain condition, or a long-term illness – MLHR volunteers will consult with a team of veterinarians, reviewing all the available medical information to fully understand the horse's current condition and future implications as well as discussing available treatment and care management options.

In MLHR we would consider the following questions:

Is the animal suffering?

- How long will the animal experience the current level of pain or debility?
- Is the animal's condition chronic or incurable?
- Does the immediate condition suggest a hopeless prognosis for life?
- Does the animal continue to show an interest and a will to live, or has it become depressed or despondent?
- What are the alternatives?

At the end of the day as a rescue committed to ending cruelty, we ask ourselves the question: is it cruel to continue to keep the animal alive?



## MLHAR Euthanasia Policy

Choosing whether, or when, to end a beloved animal's life is not a decision we will ever take lightly; the decision to euthanize, or induce a painless death, is never made without careful consideration.

Signed *Ali Davey* .....

Name Ali Davey .....

Signed *Eoin Cullen* .....

Name Eoin Cullen .....